

Kentucky Agriculture Resource Development Authority

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2000

Bruce Harper, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m., in Room 110 of the Capitol.

Members Present:

Bruce Harper, Chair; Dr. Harold Benson; John Fritz, Jr.; John-Mark Hack representing Governor Paul E. Patton; Keith Harris; Larry Jeffries; Dean C. Oran Little; David Maples representing Hoppy Lovell; George Martin; Peter McNeill; Sam Moore; Bill Payne; Terry Rhodes; Commissioner Billy Ray Smith; Will Southerland; David Switzer; Martha Thompson; and Bettie Wallace.

Members Absent:

Terry Ashby; Senator David Boswell; Morris R. Cave; Sharon Furches; Scott Kuegel; Glen Massengale; Billy Joe Miles; E Martin Nichols, Jr.; and Representative Roger Thomas.

AFO/CAFO Subcommittee:

Rebeckah Freeman presented the report. She outlined the proposed regulations of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet and the recommendations of the AFO/CAFO Subcommittee. She advised that there are two particular areas of concern in the NREPC regulations, the contractor liability piece, and the setback restrictions. There was discussion.

A motion and second were made to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee. There was additional discussion.

A motion and second were made to amend the report to recommend that setbacks be addressed in BMPs rather than in regulations. The amendment passed by voice vote.

There was a motion and second to amend the report and strike the integrator liability piece. The amendment passed by voice vote.

There was a motion and second to recommend that the Ag Water Quality Plan and the Nutrient Management Plan be combined on one application. The amendment passed by voice vote.

There was a motion and second to approve the AFO/CAFO Subcommittee report as amended. The motion passed.

PHASE II

Chairman Harper commended John-Mark Hack on the phenomenal work that had been accomplished in getting the Phase II checks in the hands of the tobacco producers. He stated that it was mind-boggling that John-Mark completed the enormous task in such an efficient and expeditious manner.

Mr. Moore pointed out that Kentucky disbursed the Phase II checks with 20% less administrative costs than any other state.

John-Mark thanked the Chairman and Mr. Moore for the compliments. He stated that without Governor Patton's prominent role in soliciting other state agencies assistance the administrative costs would have been much more. Mr. Hack also advised that, Lisa Thomas, Joel Neaveill, County Extension Agents, and Farm Service Agents were all key players in the success of this process.

2000 SESSION

Unified Plan:

Chairman Harper discussed the Unified Plan for Phase I monies. He reminded the members that it was important that they meet with their legislators to encourage investment of this money into the future of Agriculture. The Chairman advised that he had met with Governor Patton on two occasions but that Governor Patton is not endorsing any particular plan as of today.

There was much discussion about the Unified Plan. There was a motion and second that KARDA reaffirm the endorsement of the Unified Plan. The motion passed.

SPEAKER JODY RICHARDS

Speaker Richards welcomed the KARDA members to Frankfort. He advised that the Governor's State of the Commonwealth address would give the legislator's more of an idea what direction the session would take. Speaker Richards stated that the budget is be the biggest issue facing the Legislature and that tobacco money would play a prominent role. The Speaker stressed that agriculture is important to every member of The House and that everything that could be, would be done to assist the farmer and the farm communities.

Speaker Richards was optimistic that the Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, Governor and Legislature will work together to make this a very productive Session.

The Speaker thanked KARDA for all their work.

2000 Session Continued:

A Mini-Thoroughbred farm was mentioned.

There was discussion that in view of the quota cuts for the past two years and the expected drastic quota cut coming that there may be more companies making their own cigarettes.

Vegetable Producers will meet with the legislature on January 19. They will be supporting the unified plan.

There was a motion and second that KARDA should formally endorse HB1. The motion passed.

There was a motion and second that KARDA support the Governor's effort to provide rural water to every household. The motion passed.

There was a motion and second that KARDA write a letter to the Governor complementing John-Mark Hack on his handling of Phase II. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Alfalfa Conference will be held in Cave City on 2/24.

Aquaculture State Wide Advisory Council is being formed. KARDA members will be asked to serve. Dr. Benson will get the plan to the members.

The Animal Science Research Center will be dedicated in the spring. Dean Little invited KARDA to attend.

The KFB Legislative Priorities brochure will be distributed soon.

The forestry industry is on the rise. Better management, marketing, increasing land prices, converting wood waste into product, adding value by processing & finishing, schools creating outdoor classrooms, environmental education, and logger education all are playing a big role.

KCA Convention January 6 – 8, Executive West.

With no further discussion, the board adjourned.